

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to the specification by the Examiner in light of the following remarks.

PRIORITY

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(c), applicants have respectfully petitioned for amendment of the specification of the above application to include the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) for the benefit of a prior-filed co-pending international application designating the United States of America and the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) to the prior foreign application.

The reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) to the prior-filed application is:

This application is a continuation of International Application
No. PCT/EP00/03631, internationally filed April 20, 2000.

The reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) to the prior European Application No. 991 07 354.5, filed April 21, 1999 is presented in an Application Data Sheet in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.76(b)(6) attached as APPENDIX A to the PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(c).

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that entry of the amendment is proper. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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